

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: *na*

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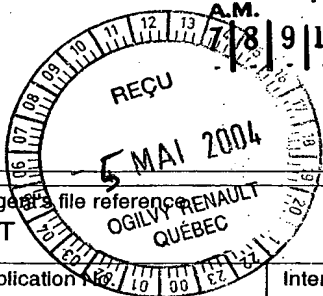
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MAY 03 2004

PCT

REPLY TO:
WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)



P.M.

DUE ON JUL 26 2004

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

26.04.2004

Applicant's or agent's file reference
14149-12PCT

REPLY DUE

within 3 month(s)
from the above date of mailing

International application
PCT/CA 03/01146

International filing date (day/month/year)
29.07.2003

Priority date (day/month/year)
29.07.2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C12N15/82

Applicant
UNIVERSITE LAVAL et al.

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 29.11.2004

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:



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Authorized Officer

Bilang, J

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I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, Pages

1-22 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-19 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims
Inventive step (IS)	Claims
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims

2. Citations and explanations**see separate sheet**

1. The present application is concerned with a method of enhancing the nutritive value of a plant (or part thereof). The method comprises the step of neutralizing the activity of enzymes responsible for the proteolytic degradation of endogenous proteins with an inhibitor released from the plant.
2. None of the available prior art documents discloses a method according to claim 1 of the present application.
3. However, there are some doubts whether the application can be reduced to practise over the whole range claimed. In the prior art, reference is made to the increase of nutritional value through the inhibition of a proteinase inhibitor, which leads to increased degradation of endogenous proteins. This authority therefore concludes that the inhibition of protein degradation is not always linked to an enhanced nutritive value.
Moreover, it should be noted that the application does not demonstrate that the nutritive value would indeed be enhanced.